

TREASURY DEPARTMENT



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The Annual Assay Commission, named by President Truman to conduct the Bureau of the Mint's 158th annual "trial of the coins," will meet at the Philadelphia Mint on Wednesday morning, February 8, 10 o'clock, to carry out a provision of law first laid down in 1792 at the suggestion of Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury.

Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, has completed arrangements for the meeting of the Commission, which during its two-day session will determine whether coins produced by the three minting establishments (Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco) during the past calendar year were of proper weight and fineness.

Mrs. Ross, whose presence is required by statute at coin trials, will convene the Commission at its first session. Committees will be named from the membership on counting, weighing and assaying, and these will participate in the procedures of the trial.

The first step in the trial is to open the box, in which specimen coins are stored, and determine whether the count of its contents is correct. One specimen from each 10,000 silver coins minted is placed in the pyx box throughout the year. After the count is verified, sample coins are removed and weighed. Finally, a number of coins from each of the three mints will be melted together and the silver mass assayed to see whether its content meets legal requirements.

Upon completion of its work a formal report will be prepared by the Commission. Members receive no pay for their services, but their expenses are defrayed, and each member receives a bronze medal commemorating the trial.

Members of the Annual Assay Commission for 1950 named by President Truman are N. Key Hart, editor of U. S. News and World Report, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Philip F. Dodson, 4001 Morrison Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.;

Mrs. Ruth B. Hawkins, Mount Holly, New Jersey; Mrs. William D. Pawley, The Plains, Virginia; Wynne James, Jr., Doylestown, Pennsylvania; Mrs. George W. Blow, Yorktown, Virginia; General John Allard, New Milford, Connecticut; Rev. Anselm Broburg, Grace Church, Providence, Rhode Island; Professor Herbert Hill, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; Dr. John G. Thompson, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.; Miss Genevieve Blatt, 27 South Third Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, William A. Hyman, 111 Fulton Street, New York, New York.

The statutory members of the Commission are Judge William Kirkpatrick of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Preston Delano, Comptroller of the Currency, Washington; Joseph S. Buford, Assayer of the U.S. Assay Office, New York City.

(Reporters and photographers will be admitted to the Philadelphia Mint, 16th and Spring Garden Streets, in advance of the opening meeting of the Commission on February 8.)